

Region 1 2015 “Volunteers Working with Invasives” Proposal

National Wildlife Refuge(s): Turnbull NWR

Name of Project: Turnbull NWR Early Detection and Rapid Response Team

Contact Person(s): Mike Rule 509-235-4723 ext 228 mike_rule@fws.gov

Total amount requested: \$12,000

Project Description (20 Points):

Invasive Species Inventory, Surveillance, and/or Monitoring:

Since 2004, over 85% of the refuge has been systematically surveyed by volunteers. The refuge has recently purchased several new tracts that need to be surveyed and mapped. Funding from this grant will provide funds to hire either an AmeriCorps member or independent contractor through the Refuge's Friend's Group. The AmeriCorps member/contractor will assist with coordinating the Refuge EDRRP through the summer of 2015. The AmeriCorps member/contractor, Refuge Wildlife Biologist, Volunteer Coordinator and Friends of Turnbull NWR will recruit and train volunteers in the use of GPS equipment, survey software and EDRRP protocols. In addition to the refuge work, the Channeled Scablands Cooperative Weed Management Area has developed a mobile weed mapping application and will host a number of workshops on weed identification, prevention and control, recruiting volunteers and conducting weed mapping training. The AmeriCorps member/Contractor's and other volunteers will also provide support for this cooperative effort.

Invasive Species Control through Treatment and/or Restoration:

Grant funds will allow for the purchase of biocontrol agents, chemicals and application equipment to facilitate the rapid response phase of the project which will result in application of rapid response control actions (manual removal, chemical application, and biocontrol) on approximately 200 acres.

Friends Groups and other Volunteers (10 Points): The Friends of Turnbull NWR will provide the AmeriCorps member and assist with outreach and volunteer recruitment through their newsletter and membership. Eastern Washington University Biology Department, Spokane Community College Environmental Sciences Program, Upper Columbia Academy, and other community groups and individuals that currently assist the refuge will be the source of volunteers for the EDRRP teams. Washington Service Corps is our partner for the AmeriCorps program.

Other Partners (10 Points): Technical assistance will be provided by the partners in the Cooperative Weed Management Area (Upper Columbia Resource Conservation and Development Council, Spokane County Extension, Lincoln County weed Board, Spokane County Weed Board, and Washington State University Extension). Total partner contribution to project: \$20,000.00 (in kind services)

Criteria for Project Success (10 Points): At least 3 volunteers will be recruited and trained to conduct Early Detection Surveys. At least 2,000 acres, will be systematically surveyed. All new locations of yellow star thistle, knapweeds, common bugloss, leafy spurge and medusa-head wildrye will be treated with appropriate IPM strategies. All 160 acres treated the previous 2 years will be revisited to evaluate their effectiveness and retreat if possible.

Comment [BF1]: As per Mike Rule, the aim is to have the equivalent of one full-time volunteer for the summer (i.e., 12 weeks x 40 hours = 480 hours).

Comment [BF2]: Will be treated by who? The volunteers?

Budget:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Costs</u>
AmeriCorps member/Independent Contractor (FOTNWR)	\$6,000
<u>BioControl Agents (insects) and Herbicides</u>	<u>\$6,000</u>
Total:	\$12,000